



**County Council
of
Baltimore County**

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Tom Quirk
FIRST DISTRICT

Vicki Almond
SECOND DISTRICT

Todd Huff
THIRD DISTRICT

Kenneth N. Oliver
FOURTH DISTRICT

David Marks
FIFTH DISTRICT

Cathy Bevins
SIXTH DISTRICT

John Olszewski, Sr.
SEVENTH DISTRICT

Thomas J. Peddicord, Jr.
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
SECRETARY

April 16, 2014

Dr. S. Dallas Dance
Superintendent
Baltimore County Public Schools
6901 Charles Street
Towson, Maryland 21204

Dear Dr. Dance:

We write to you for clarification of your decision to eliminate the semester block schedule option in the next school year, a scheduling option that has been available traditionally to high school principals, and we ask that you reconsider this decision.

We recognize that this is not an issue that falls within our policy or oversight responsibilities. However, so many of our constituents have expressed concerns about this decision, and the process that led to it, that we feel compelled to contact you.

There may be advantages to the scheduling system as you have revised it for next year, but this Council has yet to receive a cogent explanation of how these advantages outweigh those that flow from the traditional block schedule option successfully utilized for so long in our County schools, including the County's highest-performing high schools.

Specifically, the Council is requesting that you explain the rationale for this decision. Further, we ask that you reconsider the decision and allow the semester block schedule to remain an option for our high school administrators.

Sincerely,

Cathy Bevins Chair	Tom Quirk Councilman	Vicki Almond Councilwoman

Todd Huff Councilman	Kenneth N. Oliver Councilman	David Marks Councilman	John Olszewski, Sr. Councilman

ALLCC:clb

cc: Baltimore County Board of Education